

The Arizona State Board of Pharmacy Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Task Force met November 15, 2007 at the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy meeting room in the Executive Tower.

Tom Van Hassel, President of the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy and Chairman of this committee, convened the meeting at 3:07 in the afternoon.

Mr. Van Hassel stated that the purposes of this first PMP Task Force meeting were to become acquainted with one another, learn the basics of a PMP, and discuss the mission of the Task Force.

In addition to Mr. Van Hassel, the following PMP Task Force committee members were present: Dean Wright, RPh, PMP Director; Kevin Earle, Executive Director of the State Board of Dental Examiners; Steve Haiber, RPh, Senior Director of Pharmacy Practice, Express-Scripts Mail Order Pharmacy, Board member; Steven Borowsky, MD, Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, President of the Arizona Pain Society; Carol Peirce, MD, Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Medical Consultant for the Arizona Medical Board; Julie Antilla, Diversion Investigator, Phoenix DEA office (present on behalf of Barbara Roberts who was unable to attend); Armando Rivera, Group Supervisor for the Tucson DEA Diversion Group; Dave Wickey, Diversion Investigator, Tucson DEA office; Janet Elliott, Director of Pharmacy Affairs, Arizona Community Pharmacy Committee; Steve LeMahieu, RPh, Chairman of the Arizona Pharmacy Alliance Legislative Committee; Chuch Dutcher, RPh, member of the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy and owner of four Arizona retail pharmacies; Hal Wand, Executive Director of the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy; Elizabeth Campbell, JD,

Assistant Attorney General. Later arrivals: David Greenberg, MD, Family Practice and Internal Medicine; and Jack Confer, Executive Director of the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners.

Mr. Van Hassel prefaced Mr. Wright's remarks by noting that Arizona is not the first state with a PMP and indicating that the goal of this task force is to establish guidelines for trend markers and to set parameters for how data will be utilized in the Arizona program.

Mr. Wright outlined the steps taken to date to implement the Arizona Pharmacy Monitoring Program and indicated that when the selection process ends, the selected vendor of the necessary hardware and software should be awarded a contract on February 6, 2008. He said the program should actually start in June or July of 2008. Pharmacies will submit controlled substance data from January 2008, so medical practitioners will have usable retrospective data at the time of start up. Pharmacies will be automatically registered in the PMP and medical practitioners are required to register in the program. The database now contains approximately 24,000 registrants.

Mr. Wright stated that the first duty of the task force is to help administer the computerized central database tracking system by establishing the procedures and conditions relating to the release of prescription information. The task force will determine illegal or unprofessional conduct to be screened, set thresholds and frequency of the screening, and set parameters for using the prescription information. The goal is to notify medical practitioners, patients,

pharmacies, and Boards of controlled substance problems in a timely manner to provide for patient management and treatment options.

A discussion of the ramifications of various thresholds for the number of physicians and pharmacies seen by a patient that would trigger a report of illegal or unprofessional activity as well as the timeframe involved for the selected threshold. Thresholds of ten doctors and ten pharmacies, two doctors and two pharmacies, and five doctors and five pharmacies were considered. The benefits of gleaning data monthly or every three months or every six months was discussed. General discussion concerning who should be notified when a threshold is reached and potential use of the information followed. Members were asked to consider the topics discussed and be prepared to focus on the questions of thresholds and of who to notify and when to notify them at the next meeting.

Members agreed to meet again at 3:00 p.m. on January 24, 2008 and on March 20, 2008.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 in the afternoon.